

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 164983  
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY ARA/MEX:HBLANE:DMM  
APPROVED BY ARA :T.A.TODMAN  
ARA/MEX:D.SIMCOX  
S/S:TGMARTIN  
C:M.NIMETZ

-----060761 150135Z /75-61

O 150101Z JUL 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 164983

EXDIS - FOR AMBASSADOR FROM TODMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, MX, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY ROEL,  
JULY 12

1. SUMMARY: SECRETARY AND ROEL MET FOR ONE HOUR ON JULY  
12. ALSO PRESENT WERE THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, STUART EIZEN-  
STAT, MATTHEW NIMETZ, TERENCE TODMAN, HERBERT HANSELL, AND  
DAVID SIMCOX. ROEL WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR OLGUIN,  
WHO DID NOT SIT IN ON THE MEETING. IN ADDITION TO RE-  
VIEWING U.S. PROPOSALS (WHICH ARE STILL TENTATIVE) ON THE  
UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN PROBLEM, THE BELIZE SITUATION WAS DIS-  
CUSSED IN SOME DETAIL, AND OTHER MULTILATERAL AND THIRD  
COUNTRY PROBLEMS WERE TOUCHED UPON. ON JULY 13 ROEL WAS  
PROVIDED A MEMORANDUM TO TAKE BACK TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ  
PORTILLO CONCERNING BILATERAL COOPERATION ON THE UNDOCU-  
MENTED ALIEN ISSUE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 164983

2. UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS: ROEL REVIEWED HIS UNDERSTANDING  
OF THE U.S. JULY 1, PROPOSALS. HE SAID HE WAS DISCONCERTED  
THAT AFTER THE U.S. AND MEXICO HAD BEGUN A NEW ERA OF  
FRIENDSHIP MEXICO HAD SUDDENLY RECEIVED A QUOTE THREAT UN-  
QUOTE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD, FOR INTERNAL POLITICAL  
REASONS, MAKE A POLICY STATEMENT TO CONGRESS THAT WILL HARM

RELATIONS WITH MEXICO. SECRETARY EXPLAINED THAT PRESIDENT

WAS NOT GOING TO MAKE A SPEECH TO CONGRESS, THAT THE U.S. HAD ASKED MEXICO TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSED SOLUTION TO WHAT WAS FOR US A REAL PROBLEM, AND THAT THE SECRETARY DID NOT SEE THIS AS A THREAT. THE SECRETARY ASSURED ROEL THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD NO HARSH ATTACKS ON UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS IN MIND AND THAT HE WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH THE HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM.

3. EIZENSTAT REVIEWED THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE TENTATIVE PROGRAM, SUCH AS MORE EFFECTIVE ANTI-DISCRIMINATION PROTECTION FOR MEXICAN-AMERICANS AND LEGAL RESIDENTS, INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEGAL IMMIGRATION, BETTER LABOR LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS TO APPREHEND SMUGGLERS.

4. THE SECRETARY STRESSED U.S. DESIRE TO TAKE MEXICAN CONCERNS INTO ACCOUNT IN PREPARING THIS PROGRAM AND ASKED ROEL FOR SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS. ROEL ANSWERED THAT WE SHOULD ESCHEW INTENSIVE INTERCEPTION AND SWEEPING DEPORTATIONS. EIZENSTAT REPLIED THAT BORDER ENFORCEMENT WOULD BE STRENGTHENED, BUT THAT THERE WAS NO PLAN TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF ARMAMENTS. HE SAID THAT THE H-2 VISA PROGRAM WILL BE MAINTAINED AND STRENGTHENED, THAT THE STATEMENT ANNOUNCING THE PROGRAM WILL BE POSITIVE. ROEL HOPED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 164983

PROGRAM WOULD AFFIRM US INTEREST IN IMPROVING TRADE WITH MEXICO. US SIDE AGREED, BUT SAID AFFIRMATION COULD ONLY BE IN GENERAL TERMS. ROEL QUESTIONED WHETHER CONGRESS, WHICH WHEN PRESSED BY PUBLIC OPINION TO TIGHTEN SCREWS, WOULD SHARE THIS MORE LIBERAL ATTITUDE. EIZENSTAT SAID THAT MEXICAN COOPERATION WOULD HELP SHOW THAT THERE IS A COOPERATIVE APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM.

5. ROEL SAID THAT THIS DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM SOUNDED BETTER THAN THE DESCRIPTION OF JULY 1 (WHICH US PARTICIPANTS ACKNOWLEDGED HAD FOCUSED MAINLY ON LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTROL), BUT URGED THAT AN INVENTORY OR CENSUS OF UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS BE MADE BEFORE PROCEEDING. EIZENSTAT THEN REVIEWED THE PROPOSALS FOR ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS AND NON-DEPORTABLE STATUS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION. THE SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT WITHOUT THESE GUARANTEES IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT PEOPLE WOULD COME FORWARD TO BE COUNTED. ROEL SAID IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO START A CAMPAIGN IN MEXICO IN SUPPORT OF REGISTRATION OF UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS IF THE US PROGRAM WAS LENIENT. ROEL ASKED FOR A MEMORANDUM OUTLINING THE OVERALL PROGRAM, INCLUDING THE MORE POSITIVE ASPECTS, TO TAKE BACK TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO.

THE SECRETARY AGREED TO PROVIDE SUCH A MEMO.

6. EIZENSTAT INFORMED ROEL THAT THE NEW PROPOSALS WOULD

BE ANNOUNCED IN TWO WEEKS, THOUGH CONGRESS WOULD PROBABLY NOT ACT ON THE PROPOSALS UNTIL WINTER. ROEL THOUGHT THIS WAS RUSHING THINGS AND STILL PREFERRED TO SEE A HEAD COUNT DONE FIRST BUT SAID THAT HE WAS NOW SOMEWHAT REASSURED ABOUT THE OVERALL PACKAGE.

7. BELIZE: THE SECRETARY TOLD ROEL THAT THE MEETING BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND GUATEMALANS HAD GONE WELL, THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD DISCUSS A POSSIBLE COMPROMISE SOLUTION, AND THEN THE MATTER MIGHT BE PUT TO MEDIATION. ROEL WAS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 164983

SKEPTICAL, FEELING THAT THE GUATEMALANS WERE RESENTFUL AND LIVING IN THE PAST. ROEL INDICATED THAT IF THERE IS VIOLENCE OR UNREASONABLE TERRITORIAL DEMANDS, MEXICO WOULD BE CONCERNED AS MEXICO ALSO HAS RIGHTS WHICH IT IS NOW RELINQUISHING IN THE INTEREST OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

8. NORTH - SOUTH RELATIONS: THE SECRETARY RAISED A POSSIBILITY MENTIONED BY VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ DURING HIS WASHINGTON VISIT THAT VENEZUELA WOULD SUGGEST AT THE NEXT UNGA THAT A COMMITTEE OF THIRTY TO FIFTY MEMBERS FORM A COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE NORTH - SOUTH RELATIONS. ROEL THOUGHT THE IDEA SHOULD BE CONSIDERED POSITIVELY.

9. PANAMA: ROEL ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS. SECRETARY ACKNOWLEDGED THE TREATY WAS VIRTUALLY COMPLETE, BUT THAT PANAMA WAS NOW TRYING TO LINK IT TO ECONOMIC ISSUES. ROEL SAID THE PANAMANIAN WERE WRONG TO MAKE SUCH A LINKAGE AND THAT HE WOULD TELL THEM SO.

10. SECRETARY BRIEFLY REVIEWED OTHER PROBLEM AREAS SUCH AS SOVIET RELATIONS, MIDDLE EAST, AND CHILE. HE TOLD ROEL THAT THE U.S. AND BRAZIL HAVE HUMAN RIGHTS DIFFERENCES BUT THAT OTHERWISE RELATIONS ARE GOOD.

11. IN CLOSING, THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT THE TOUGHEST PROBLEM AFFECTING US-MEXICAN RELATIONS IS THE IMMIGRATION PROBLEM. HE ASKED ROEL TO CALL HIM AFTER HE HAD HAD A CHANCE TO TALK TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO AND HE WOULD THEN TALK TO PRESIDENT CARTER.

12. A MEMORANDUM DRAFTED BY DEPARTMENT AND APPROVED BY THE DOMESTIC COUNCIL WAS GIVEN TO ROEL ON JULY 13 (AND IS BEING SENT TO YOU BY SEPTTEL), ALONG WITH A COPY OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 164983

EILBERG BILL AND THE CURRENT H-2 VISA REGULATIONS.  
VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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